

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. In a fishing reel having a drag mechanism capable of being moved to a drag condition and to a free spool condition, and having the force exerted by said drag mechanism pre-set by turning  
5 a knob, the improvement comprising:

a preset locking means coacting with said knob to prevent said knob from accidentally rotating during use of said reel, said preset locking means comprising: a bridge plate having a hole therein defined by walls; said knob having cooperating means for mating with the walls and preventing rotation of the knob; a radial surface on said knob having spring-biased pins  
10 retained therein and extending therefrom; said bridge plate juxtaposed to said knob and having a radial surface in opposed relation to the radial surface on said knob; said bridge plate radial surface having depressions therein for engagement with said pins, such that when said preset knob is depressed axially, said knob can be easily rotated, and when said preset knob is in a rest condition, said knob is in a locked non-rotating condition.

15 2. The reel of claim 1 wherein the axial force exerted by said spring-biased pins is such that the pins and depressions are maintained in contact with one another, while permitting rotation of said knob.

3. The reel of claim 1 wherein the cooperating means further comprises a geometric shape on said knob.

20 4. The reel of claim 3 wherein the walls of the hole in said bridge plate further comprise a geometric shape sized the fit in sliding engagement with said geometric shape on said knob.